



House Budget and Research Office

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School Based Health Centers

What are they?

- Comprehensive school based health clinics are medical centers that blend medical care with preventive and psychosocial services.
- They are located in schools or in close proximity.
- The health center works cooperatively within the school to become an integral part of the school.
- The health center provides a comprehensive range of services that meet the specific physical and behavioral health needs of the young people in the community as well as providing for the more traditional medical care needs.

Why are they needed?

- School based health centers (SBHCs) represent the most effective system of health care for the underserved in this country.
- It is a system of care that essentially eliminates every barrier to healthcare (i.e. cost, hours of operation, transportation, easy access) and the holistic, multidisciplinary approach to providing healthcare is very effective in addressing health disparities in the context of the social determinants of health.
 - Parents do not miss work to take their children to a doctor and students spend less time out of the classroom.
- Research demonstrates that SBHCs effectively address the needs of students:
 - Increased access to quality healthcare
 - Improved health outcomes
 - Decreased healthcare costs
 - Improved school attendance and academic performance

Sustainability

- Emory University School of Medicine has determined a number of best practices to ensure SBHCs are self-sustaining.
- SBHCs require startup assistance from the local school system; they need to provide the space within or near the school for the location of the SBHC.
- After the initial startup assistance from the state, SBHCs sustain themselves like a normal health provider would by billing the student's insurance company/parents for any services provided.
- Most students have health insurance, either through their parents or Medicaid. The health centers will derive most of their revenue directly from insurance companies, giving an incentive for health care providers as they will have a largely insured population.